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MEN'S TENNIS

No. 1 Pirates Sweep PBC Men's Tennis Awards On Thursday





Posted: Apr 19, 2012

GREENWOOD, S.C. - The top-ranked Armstrong Atlantic State University men's tennis team swept the major awards for a third year in a row at the Peach Belt Conference's annual awards banquet on Thursday evening, prior to the 2012 Peach Belt Conference Tennis Championships at Lander University.

Sophomore Georgi Rumenov was named the Player of the Year, while Sven Lalic the Freshman of the Year and head coach Simon Earnshaw the Coach of the Year. Five Pirates earned All-PBC singles honors while two doubles teams earned All-PBC doubles accolades.

In his first season at Armstrong, Rumenov took the conference by storm, winning his first 18 dual matches in a row and finishing the regular season with a 18-1 overall record and ranked the #1 singles player in the nation. The sophomore from Barcelona, Spain, defeated 13 nationally-ranked players this season and was named a PBC Player of the Week four times. Rumenov was unbeaten in conference play, never dropping a set to a league opponent. He becomes the fourth straight Armstrong player to be named the PBC Player of the Year, joining teammates Eudaldo Bonet who won in 2011 and Mikk Irdoja, who claimed the honor in 2010. Rumenov becomes the seventh Pirate to be named the PBC Player of the Year.

Sven Lalic had a remarkable first collegiate season, going undefeated in singles play. The freshman from Banja Luka, Bosnia, played the majority of his matches at #5 singles where he was 10-0, but was 4-0 at #4, 3-0 at #6 and 1-0 at #3. Only once was he taken to three sets, a match he won against Division I North Florida's Graham Edgar, and had one win over a top-50 player. Ranked #32 in the nation, Lalic did not give up more than three games in any set to a Division II opponent this spring and is one of three PBC tennis players (all Pirates) who finished the spring season undefeated with at least 10 decisions. Lalic becomes the sixth straight Pirate to be named the PBC Freshman of the Year.

Head coach Simon Earnshaw has built a dynasty with the Armstrong men's and women's championships and look to build upon that tradition heading into the 2012 postseason. The Pirates men's tennis team won their third consecutive PBC regular-season championship this year and are in position to capture their eighth straight tournament title this weekend. Ranked #1 in the nation, Armstrong has dominated the 2012 landscape, going undefeated in conference play for the sixth time in the last seven years with a pair of national championships (2008, 2009) thrown in. Now in his 13th season at the helm of the program, he claims his fifth PBC Men's Coach of the Year award. He has also won the women's award 10

times, including this season.

Rumenov was named All-PBC first-team singles along with seniors Eudaldo Bonet and Mikk Irdoja. Lalic and junior Matus Mydla were named All-PBC second-team singles, while the doubles duo of Irdoja were first team All-PBC doubles honorees and Lalic and sophomore Pedro Scocuglia were second team All-PBC doubles honorees.

Click [here](#) to view the complete 2012 PBC Men's Tennis awards.

Armstrong, the top seed, begins its quest for an eighth straight PBC Tennis Tournament title by taking on No. 8 seeded USC Aiken on Friday at 1:00 p.m. at the Joe Cabri Tennis Center.



ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

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